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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

International Patent Application
No. PCT/EP00/04694

International Filing Date: 23 May 2000

Applicant: Thomas GIERING et al.

For: VALUABLE DOCUMENT

Attorney Docket: GIER3001/JEK

5-15-02
PCT/DO/EO/US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper accompanies documents submitted to establish the U.S. national stage of the above-identified international patent application.

The claims were not amended during the international phase. Before calculation of the filing fee and before examination, please amend the application as follows:

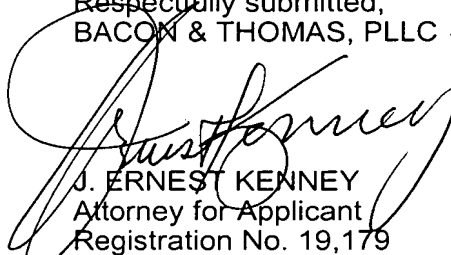
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the original as-filed claims as shown on the appended APPENDIX OF CLAIMS, which includes amended and non-amended claims. Also appended hereto an APPENDIX OF MARKED UP CLAIMS showing the changes which have been made.

REMARKS

All rights are reserved to the original claimed subject matter. The claims have been amended to reduce the filing fees and to restate the inventive subject matter in clear terms. None of the amendments are intended to narrow any element of the claims as they stood prior to amendment. Examination of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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